

## Florida State News.

### In Interest of the Southern.

While the Gainesville and Gulf railroad was purchased by F. M. Simonson of Tampa and A. P. Stuckey, B. W. Hunt and J. N. Tiller of Ocala, it is a common rumor that the deal was made in the interest of the Southern railway, and that arrangements will at once be made to extend the line from Fairfield to Tampa, lessening the distance between Micanopy and the south Florida metropolis by nearly a hundred miles.

The Gainesville & Gulf railway is forty-eight miles in length, extending from Sampson City, where connection is made with the Georgia, Southern and Florida, to Fairfield, Marion county. It traverses one of the richest horticultural and farming sections in the state.

The construction of the line began in 1895 by V. J. Herlong, and when completed it ran from Gainesville, to Micanopy, being known as the Gainesville, Rocky Point and Micanopy railroad.

A couple of years later it was extended to Fairfield, eight miles south of Micanopy, and in 1900 construction was completed north to Sampson City, where the name was changed to the Gainesville and Gulf railroad.

Immediately following the transfer, the new stockholders of the road held a meeting, and elected officers.

The inventory of the Gainesville and Gulf railway was forty-eight miles of track and sidings, all station houses and depots, three locomotives, four passenger coaches and eleven flat cars. The consideration was not learned.

### Two Railroad Ordinances Signed.

After a consultation with prominent business men and citizens, Mayor Bliss of Pensacola affixed his signature to the two new railroad ordinances recently passed by the city council, and they become operative at once. One grants water front privileges and rights to a corporation known as the Pensacola and North-eastern road, which is to run from Pensacola to Andalusia, Ala., and the other is known as the Pensacola and Northwestern, and connects Pensacola with Memphis.

The ordinances have been before the council a number of times, but were only recently passed. The mayor, however, was of the opinion that the interests of the city were not properly guarded, and that too much had been given the roads, and was undecided whether or not he would veto the measures. He asked for a conference of business men, and afterwards announced that he would sign the ordinances, which was done at once. Local capitalists are heavily interested, though New York parties are behind the movement.

Comptroller A. C. Croom, Secretary of State H. Clay Crawford, Superintendent W. M. Holloway, State Treasurer W. V. Knott and Commissioner of Agriculture B. E. McLin of the board of commissioners of state institutions returned to Tallahassee a few days ago from Chattahoochee, where they went to inspect plans and select a site for the new building for colored male patients at the state hospital for insane. After selecting the site for the building, the board made an inspection of the hospital, and found its affairs in a highly satisfactory condition. Superintendent Whitner stated that he had no difficulty whatever in supplying attendants to take the place of those who went out on the strike recently, and has a large number of applications for positions should any become vacant.

Orlando grocers have perfected an organization for mutual benefit, and hereafter the man who owes a bill at one store and refuses to pay it will find himself in trouble when he tries to buy bacon and grins on credit at some other store. The object is most commendable, but should not stop with the grocers. Every business place in town should be represented. If a man will not pay for his coffee and sugar, the probabilities are that he will not pay for his beefsteaks, nails, calico, laundry, shoes or newspaper.

The strike and lockout of union carpenters at Jacksonville has been taken into the courts by the Builders Exchange, asking for an injunction restraining the structural building trades union from placing one of the members of the exchange on the unfair list, thus virtually boycotting him. A temporary injunction was granted.

The foundation work on the main building for the state fair to be held in Tampa, November 15 to 30 is progressing in good shape. A large force is at work on the grounds, and the buildings will be erected as rapidly as the lumber can be supplied. Plans are being perfected for moving the big exposition building of the old Plant Investment company onto the fair grounds, from its present location, just west of the Tampa Bay hotel. This is to be used for the woman's building at the state fair. Every day additional counties are announcing preparations for exhibits at the fair, and there is evidently going to be a spirited contest among the various counties to secure the big prize for the best collective county exhibit.

One of the largest deals in timber lands in western Florida to be consummated in many years was closed the past week when J. R. Saunders and associates purchased a tract of about 75,000 acres from J. A. Chaffin & Co. The consideration being about \$500,000. The land lies mostly in Santa Rosa county, although there are some holdings in Walton county. The timber on it is what is known as "round" or unboxed timber, having never been turpintined. The purchasers of the tract, in addition to Mr. Saunders, are C. M. and M. L. Covington, and a number of Georgia parties. All the parties interested are considered wealthy turpentine operators, and will at once proceed to develop their holdings for naval stores products.

The county commissioners of Putnam decided at their recent meeting to call a "wet or dry" election in deference to a petition presented for their consideration and represented by L. E. Robinson of Lake City. Mr. Robinson stated that he desired to know what disposition the board was going to make of the matter, so that in the interests of the "dry" element he could govern himself accordingly. It was determined after consideration to call an election, but the date was not named, but sixty days from the time decided on, as provided by law, will throw the battle of the ballots well into October.

E. E. Johns, for many years sheriff of Bradford county, and one of the most efficient and fearless sheriffs the state of Florida has ever known, has accepted a position as deputy with Sheriff A. J. Higginbotham of Nassau county. Mr. Johns has been a terror to evil doers in this state for many years, and it is due to his energy as well as to his skill that a great many criminals have been brought under the hands of justice. That he will make Nassau county an excellent official is evident from his past record and his determination to do his best.

Samuel Simmons, a wealthy naval stores and sawmill man, and his son, Ely Simmons, were both shot and killed about fifteen miles from Jacksonville a few days ago by Thomas Hester, who enters the plea of self-defense. The bodies of father and son were found in the pine woods, near the public road. The elder Simmons was shot through the heart by a full charge of buckshot, and the heart was found on the ground about a foot from the body, having evidently been torn out after he was killed.

A disastrous fire which occurred in the lumber yard of C. E. Melton at Micanopy destroyed 1,200,000 feet of boards, valued at about \$15,000. The origin of the fire is unknown. The flames were discovered too late to save the lumber as it was thoroughly seasoned and burned like tinder. A strange coincidence is the fact that two months ago Mr. Melton's mill was burned, entailing a loss of many thousand dollars. The mill was one of the most modern in the section, and the loss was a heavy one.

An invitation has been extended to the second regiment to hold its annual encampment in Orlando. A meeting of the board of trade was held and a committee appointed to raise the funds necessary to entertain the boys if they conclude to come. A piece of ground close to town has been selected for the purpose.

Mayor Solomonson of Tampa and family left a few days ago for New York, preparatory to sailing for the mayor's old home in Holland, where a couple of months will be spent. During the mayor's absence Hon. Elmore Webb, president of the city council, will act as chief magistrate of Tampa.

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## THREE POINTS ARE SETTLED

Lesser Demands of Japs Accorded to By Russian Envoys.

## MAIN FEATURES TO COME

Agreement Reached as to Korea, Evacuation of Manchuria and Chinese Eastern Railway.

Although very rapid progress was made with the peace negotiations at Portsmouth Monday, three of the twelve articles which constitute the Japanese conditions of peace, having been agreed to by Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen on behalf of Russia, neither of the two articles to which Mr. Witte in his reply returned an absolute negative was reached. The crisis, therefore, is still to come.

The three "articles," as they are officially designated in the brief communications, authorized to be given to the press, are, in substance, as follows:

"First—Russia's recognition of Japan's 'preponderating influences' and special position in Korea, which Russia henceforth agrees is outside of her sphere of influence, Japan binding herself to recognize the suzerainty of the reigning family, but with the right to give advice and assistance to improve the civil administration of the empire."

"Second—Mutual obligation to evacuate Manchuria, each to surrender all special privileges in that province, mutual obligation to respect the 'territorial integrity' of China and to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in that province (open door)."

"Third—The cession to China of the Chinese Eastern railroad from Harbin southward."

There was never any question about the acceptance on the part of Mr. Witte of these "articles," the first two covering in more emphatic form the contentions of Japan in the diplomatic struggle which preceded hostilities. The third is a natural consequence of the result of war. The cession of the railroad, the building of which cost Russia an immense sum, estimated by some at between \$100,000,000 and \$200,000,000, is to China. Japan and China, therefore, will arrange between themselves the method by which the former is to be remunerated, and through this financial operation, Japan might have a very considerable portion of her claim for the "expenses of the war" liquidated. The railroad is ostensibly the property of the Russo-Chinese bank, although built by government money advanced through the bank, and since its completion, operated, managed and policed by the Russian government.

Japan cannot take the railroad herself. To place herself in Russia's shoes regarding the railroad would be militarily to control the destinies of the three provinces of Manchuria, which she has promised to return to China.

### ALL NEW COUNTY BILLS PASSED.

Georgia House Concludes Its Part of Work on Important Legislation.

Fully sustaining the report of its committee on new counties, the Georgia house of representatives Monday completed its work on the new county bills, passing each one of them just as the committee recommended.

The new county business was concluded when the house passed the bills providing for the creation of Stephens county from parts of Habersham and Franklin, and Towns county from parts of Emanuel, Tattnall and Montgomery.

The house has thus passed bills providing for the establishment of eight new counties, all that are allowed under the constitutional amendment. The matter of new counties is now up to the senate.

## SOCIAL EQUALITY EPISODE

Booker T. Washington Acts as the Escort of Wannamaker's Daughter at a Swed. Dinner.

A special from Saratoga, N. Y., is as follows: "Booker T. Washington's appearance at dinner yesterday in the great dining room of the United States hotel caused a mild sensation among the diners. Washington was the guest of John Wannamaker, former postmaster general, and acted as escort to Mrs. Barclay Warburton, Mr. Wannamaker's daughter, while Mr. Wannamaker walked to the table with J. R. E. Roberts.

"Washington preached here three times yesterday, first at the Presbyterian church, in the Baptist church, and late in the evening in the African Methodist church."

### Cunningham Condemns Booker.

A dispatch from Birmingham, Ala., says: Lieutenant Governor R. M. Cunningham, in a statement made Monday night, vigorously condemns the action of Booker T. Washington in dining publicly with John Wannamaker and his daughter at Saratoga Springs.

"His conduct in accepting those attentions from northern white people," said Lieutenant Governor Cunningham, "proves conclusively that he is an unwise leader of his race. It contradicts emphatically the policies he has preached and the profession he has made. It impairs his usefulness to his people, for while he may be immune from the injury that will follow, they, credulous and ignorant, will suffer incalculably.

"If he had sat down and studied how he could most effectively array the whites against the blacks in the south, he could not have hit upon a plan that would have been more effective than the one he has adopted."

### Dr. Stagg Blames Washington.

Dr. J. W. Stagg, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Birmingham, said the action of Booker T. Washington, in Saratoga, Sunday, will retard the union of the northern and southern branches of the church for many years.

"John Wannamaker, with whom Washington dined publicly, is a prominent member of the northern Presbyterian church, and all southern members of the church will resent his action. I blame Washington more than Mr. Wannamaker. He knows better, while Mr. Wannamaker does not understand sentiment in the south against anything bordering on racial equality."

### YELLOW FEVER REPORT FOR MONDAY

Fifty-five New Cases and Twelve Deaths for the Day in New Orleans.

Yellow fever figures for Monday in New Orleans were surprisingly small, considering that nine ten of the cases reported really belonged to Sunday's list, having come in after the closing of Sunday's report. Monday has usually been a heavy day for new cases on account of hold-overs from Sunday, and if the number of new cases for the next few days continues small, then it can be said that the situation is really improving.

The official report for the day was as follows: New cases, 55; total cases to date, 1,618; deaths, Monday, 12; total deaths to date, 166; cases under treatment, 356.

### NORWAY VOTES TO CUT LOOSE.

Question of Seceding from Sweden is Approved Overwhelmingly.

The Norwegian people, in a referendum taken Sunday, pronounced in favor of the dissolution of the union with Sweden with remarkable unanimity. Of 450,000 voters, 320,000 cast ballots. The difference between the total number of voters and the number of votes cast is attributable to absentees, such as sailors abroad and others who are out of the country at present.

Thousands of women who did not have the right of franchise, signed petitions in the streets indorsing the dissolution.

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HAND.

## DODGED BOMB-THROWERS

Railroad Officials Thought Roosevelt in Danger and Took Precautions for His Safety.

A New York dispatch says: That the railway officials were alarmed for the safety of President Roosevelt on his way from Chautauqua to Jersey City, on Saturday, is shown by the fact made known Sunday that the president's car did not come in over the main line. Instead the Chautauqua special was broken in two at Suffern, N. Y., and the presidential party was brought in by a special roundabout way over two small branch roads.

President Roosevelt is said to have objected to the unusual precautions taken, but acquiesced when positive orders from President Underwood of the Erie railroad were shown him. These orders were issued as a result of a letter received by the Paterson police, which said there was a plot to blow up the president's train near Ridgewood, N. J.

The Chautauqua special was stopped at Suffern early Saturday morning. There was a consultation over the telephone, which was followed by a consultation of railroad men, at which it was decided to send the president to Sparkill, a small town on the Hudson, three miles below the Piermont branch, and thence to Jersey City on the Northern railway, a branch having its terminal in Nyack. President Roosevelt was awakened and told of the change in the schedule, as the officials did not like to take the responsibility without his consent. The president, after some discussion, that he was "in the hands of the Erie," and while he had no fear of his train being wrecked on the main line, he would do what the railroad men thought best. Slow time was made over the Piermont branch and the Northern railroad, and extra men guarded every part of both roads.

### CLAIMS OF FRENCHMEN ALLOWED.

Referee Plumley Directs That Venezuela Pay Over \$650,000.

Claims aggregating more than \$650,000 held by the French government against Venezuela, have been allowed by Referee Frank Plumley of Northfield, Vt., to whom they had been referred for a decision and final adjudication.

The claims are for damages alleged to have been sustained by French citizens conducting mercantile enterprises in Venezuela during the insurrection of 1901.